DEWAN'S REPLY. Mr. Kochukrishna Pillai, in regard to your first point, the lands alongside the new Pallivasal-Neriamangalam road will first be surveyed and plotted and then made available for registry at suitable prices. This cannot be done until the Pallivasal-Neriamanagalam road is approaching completion.

You next refer to the order of prohibition against registry of cardamom lands. There is no such order of prohibition. It is in reality an order of reservation and lands are being reserved for registry until such time as communications are complete traversing the cardamom country and having an outlet on the Travancore side. When the programme of road construction is carried through—it should not be very long, now that two years have gone by—all those lands in due course will be made available for registry, on such terms as would be suitable.

Then you dwelt upon the question of reservation of lands exclusively for Travancoreans. I regret it is not possible for Government to follow that course if for no other reason than that on two separate occasions the Legislative Council by a large majority rejected any such idea of not selling lands to what you call foreigners.

Then you speak of the unlimited extent of land at the disposal of Government in Devicolam Division for assignment to all and sundry. As a matter of fact, there are only 175 acres of Government land at Devicolam. Much of this land is required for Government offices and officers. As the town grows, the needs of Government must inevitably grow. Therefore if those lands are alienated permanently, Government will find themselves in a difficult position, having no land on which to place their buildings. It is because of this provision for the future that at present all Government lands are given on *kuthagapattom* lease so that the lands can again be made available for Government. In view of the very limited area available and in view of the future needs of Government, I am afraid it is impossible to register these outright to the class of persons you indicate.

8. Concessions to the Vilakkitala Nayars in the matter of registry of Puduval lands.

MR. P. N. APPAVU VAIDYAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Vilakkitalavanmars were a very poor community. Many of them owned not even a cent of land on which they could build a hut. But there were thousands of acres of Sirkar lands in the country which had all been registered to foreigners. During the time of the late Dewan Sir P. Rajagopalachari, some lands were registered on concessional rates to some depressed communities. The same concessions were shown to ex-service men who had taken part in the Great War. But now only rich men and men of influence could get Sirkar lands. The Vilakkitalavanmars were, however, mostly poor people, following their traditional occupation. They had neither the money nor the influence to compete with other communities. According to the last census there was a total population of 27,276 Vilakkitalavanmars in the country, of whom 107 alone enjoyed income from land. All the remaining 27,169

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persons were poor and landless. It would be a great boon to these poor people if some Sirkar reserve was set apart for assignment to them and the land was registered to them on concessional rates of *taravila* in small blocks of 10 cents each.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Appavu Vaidyan, I was not aware that the Vilakkitalavanmars were agriculturists. I think I am correct in saying that they follow one or two definite professions or occupations. So all that they need is not land to cultivate but land for house-sites. You say that there are 27,000 Vilakkitalavanmars not owning land. It would therefore be a very serious problem to provide them with 10 cents of land each, that is 2,70,000 cents of land or 2,700 acres. Where such land is to be found—I am afraid it is difficult to point out. And if we, as you suggest, have vacated a reserve somewhere and register the whole of that to Vilakkitalavanmars, it will mean that all of them will be located in one place so as to render the practice of their profession impossible. However, the matter will be reviewed and I shall instruct the Land Revenue Commissioner to go carefully into the matter and see whether anything possible can be done to assist your community in the matter. I would suggest that you take an early opportunity of interviewing the Land Revenue Commissioner and furnishing him with such details and such particulars as he will need.

9. Difficulties in the registry of Puduval lands in the names of members of the depressed classes.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Member, Nominated*) said that according to the statements made by Government 16,026 acres of land had been set apart in all the taluks together for registry to the depressed classes. But most of the lands set apart were extremely poor and unfit for cultivation. The few lands that were useful were those in the occupation of other communities from whom the depressed classes could not recover them. Complaints had been preferred in respect of several such lands and the delay in the disposal of these complaints tended to strengthen the claims of the occupants. The lands that were actually registered to the depressed classes were in their possession and enjoyment. But somehow the impression had got abroad that the owners of these lands were freely alienating them for trifling considerations. This was not correct. Such alienations, if at all, were procured by the fraud and ill-will of the Proverthicars and of the persons belonging to other communities.

Another respect in which the depressed classes were ill-treated by the Revenue officers was in the interpretation and application of the rules regarding concessional registry. These rules were often interpreted to mean that the depressed classes were disqualified to get registry of any lands except those earmarked for concessional registry to them. Cases were not rare in which land holders belonging to the depressed classes were forcibly evicted from lands in their occupation and enjoyment for no better reason than that the lands did not come within the ear-marked area. It was imperative that this pernicious practice should be put a stop to by Government.

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